

REMARKS

This communication is filed in response to the Final Action dated March 25, 2010 (*Final Action*). Claims 1, 12-15, 17, 23, and 24 are amended. Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 16, and 19-22 were previously canceled. Claims 10 and 11 are currently canceled. Claim 25-32 are added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 7, 12-15, 17, 18, 23, and 24-32 remain pending in this application.

Support for the present amendments is provided, for example, by canceled claims 10 and 11 and by FIG. 20 and the accompanying description at paragraphs [0192]-[0199] of Applicants' *Published Application* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0044082). Support for new claims 25-32 is found, at least, in original claims 12-15.

Applicants are aware that they cannot, as a matter of right, amend any finally rejected claims or add any new claims. However, the proposed amendments merely cancel claims, amend claims per the Examiner's indication that certain claims are allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the corresponding base claim and intervening claims, if any. Therefore, the amended and new claims require only a cursory review by the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to enter and consider the claim amendments and the new claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 17 was objected to as containing informalities based on the term "define an intersection." *Final Action* at 2. By virtue of the present amendments, this term is replaced with the term "defining an intersection" in claim 17 so that the claim reads: "the interval of the first dimension including the corresponding current parameter value of the first dimension and the interval of the second dimension including the corresponding current parameter value of the second dimension defining an intersection." Applicants submit that the objection is overcome and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

The Rejection of Claims Under § 112

Claims 17, 18, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Independent claim 17 is amended to recite, “the interval of the first dimension including the corresponding current parameter value of the first dimension and the interval of the second dimension including the corresponding current parameter value of the second dimension defining an intersection.” The present amendment is supported, for example, by original claim 22, previously canceled. Applicants submit that the objection is overcome and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The Rejection of Claims Under § 103

Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 17, 18, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ming-Chuan Wu, “Encoded Bitmap Indexes and Their Use for Data Warehouse Optimization,” D17, Darmstadt Dissertation, January 2001 (*Wu*). Claim 10 is presently canceled. In view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the pending claims.

The Examiner indicated that claims 11-15 would be allowable if properly integrated into claim 1. *Final Action* at 14-15. Claim 11 previously depended from claim 10, which, in turn, depended from claim 1. Claims 12-15, also indicated as allowable, depended from claim 11 and are currently amended to depend from claim 1. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to integrate the limitations of claim 10 and claim 11. Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying the allowable subject matter.

Further independent claims 17 and 24, as amended, each have limitations similar to amended claim 1 and are asserted to also be allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 2, 7, 17, 18, and 23 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 or 17 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Further, these dependent claims may each be patentable for their own limitations.

Additionally, new claims 25-32 depend from either claim 17 or claim 24 that Applicants submit are allowable. Therefore, new claims 25-32 are allowable for at least the same reasons as

the claims from which they depend. Moreover, these dependent claims may each be patentable for their own limitations.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (408) 278-4051 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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